



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

September 17, 1996

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**PUBLIC HAS 30 MORE DAYS TO COMMENT ON PROCESS FOR
IDENTIFYING "CANDIDATE" SPECIES FOR ENDANGERED LIST**

The public has 30 more days to comment on the process used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify candidate species that may be proposed for addition to the endangered species list.

On February 28, 1996, the Service published a revised notice of review that announced changes to the way the Service identifies and monitors species that are candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. As outlined in the candidate notice, the Service announced its intention to no longer maintain a list of species previously called "category 2 candidates." The category 2 list included species for which there was not enough scientific information to support a proposal to list them as endangered.

In the February 28 notice, the Service asked for biological information on candidate species and also solicited comments of a general nature on revision of the candidate identification process but did not set a closing date for either kind of comments.

The Service now announces that it will consider all public comments on the matter of discontinuing the practice of identifying and monitoring category 2 candidate species until October 17, 1996. The Service will publish a subsequent notice addressing all comments received and indicating a final decision on this issue and how the Service intends to identify species that are under consideration for possible addition to the list of endangered or threatened species.

Comments and information relating the biological status and threats of particular species that are, or should be, regarded as candidates for listing may continue to be submitted at any time.

The notice announcing the closure of the public comment period on the candidate species process was published in the September 17, 1996, Federal Register. Comments should be sent to the Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street NW., Mailstop ARLSQ-452, Washington, DC 20240.

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